BRITISH COLUMBIA BCStats

Infoline

Contact bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 13-01 January 4th, 2013

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate drops to 6.5% in December**
- **Investment in new housing construction climbs 13.9% in October**
- **Food service and drinking places in B.C. see revenues edge down 1.1% in October**

Labour Force

- **In December, B.C.'s unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 6.5% (*seasonally adjusted*).** The number of persons participating in the labour force fell by 5,900, while the number employed increased slightly (+600). Compared to December 2011, employment in B.C. was up by 19,400 jobs, but job growth in B.C. was lower (+0.8%) than the national average (+1.8%).

  All of the employment gains in December were in full-time employment (+4,300), while losses in part-time employment (-3,700) offset most of these gains.

  The goods-producing sector was up 3,400 jobs in December with construction posting gains (+14,800). Offsetting these gains were forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-5,000), manufacturing (-3,400), utilities (-1,600) and agriculture (-1,300). Since December 2011, the goods-producing sector has posted job gains of 7,500 (+1.6%).

  Employment on the services-producing side declined by 2,700 jobs in December. Gains in educational services (+12,000) and wholesale and retail trade (+6,900), were not enough to offset the losses in transportation and warehousing (-10,400), business, building and other support services (-7,100), and professional, scientific and technical services (-6,800). The other industries were relatively unchanged. Overall employment in the services-producing sector has increased by 12,000 jobs or 0.7% from December 2011.

- **At the national level, employment rose by 39,800 in December, the fourth increase in five months.** The unemployment rate declined 0.1 percentage points to 7.1%, the lowest in four years. Employment increased in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island. Employment declined in Nova Scotia.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **In December the unemployment rates (3-*month moving average, unadjusted*) for both the First Nations population and the Métis population increased from the previous month's rate, edging up (+0.8 percentage points) to 14.0% for the First Nations population, and climbing (+1.6 percentage points) to 10.4% for the Métis population.** When compared to December 2011, the First Nations' unemployment rate was much improved, dropping by 5.9 percentage points. The unemployment rate for the Métis population was greater compared to last December, jumping 2.1 percentage points.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **In December, employment for men (*aged* 25 *and over*) increased by 5,900 jobs, reversing November's losses.** With a marginal decrease in the size of the labour force the unemployment rate for men declined by 0.8 percentage points to 5.0%, the lowest it has been since December 2008. The unemployment rate for women (aged 25 and over) increased by 0.1 percentage points to 5.6%. Employment for women increased by 3,100 jobs in December; however, the growth in the labour force

Report — No report this issue

Did you know...

Williams Lake is the only known city to observe the public holiday, "Wrestling Day," which falls on January 2nd, annually. *Source: City of Williams Lake*

(+3,700) outpaced the increase in employment. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The unemployment rate for youth (*aged 15 to 24*) rose by 0.6 percentage points in December to 13.7%.** Compared to December 2011, the unemployment rate for B.C.'s youth has declined by 0.1 percentage points. While the number of unemployed youth has declined by 2,300 compared to 12 months ago, the number participating in the labour force has also dropped by 16,100 and 13,800 fewer youth are employed. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Average weekly earnings of payroll employees in British Columbia were $871.99 in October (*seasonally adjusted*), rising 0.4% over the previous month, and 3.0% over the same month in 2011.** Nationally, wages rose 0.9% in October to $909.00, with a year-over-year increase of 2.8%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Investment in new housing construction in British Columbia rose 13.9% in October 2012 compared to the same month in 2011.** Spending on apartment-type dwellings continued to surge (+44.0%) in October, while investment in single (-2.2%), double (-3.0%), and row (-14.4%) housing in B.C. was down.

  Nationally, new housing construction investment jumped 13.0% in October led by increased spending in Alberta (+24.6%) and Ontario (+16.1%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

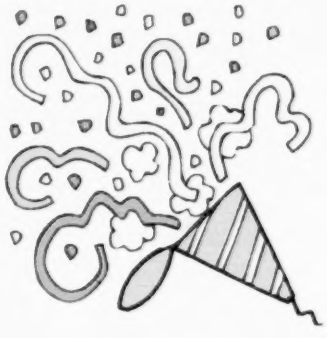
- **Revenues generated by British Columbia's food service and drinking places industry dipped 1.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) in October following an increase of 2.3% the previous month.** Compared to the same month in 2011, total receipts for October were up 2.7%, largely driven by a jump (+5.6%) in revenues reported by limited-service eating places (fast food establishments, take-out restaurants, coffee shops, etc). Receipts at full-service restaurants also rose (+2.3%), while drinking places' revenues slumped (-6.6%).

  Nationally, the food service and drinking places industry reported an increase of 3.5% between October 2011 and October 2012. Gains recorded in Alberta (+6.0%), Ontario (+3.7%), and B.C. (+2.7%) were responsible for much of the overall rise in receipts.
  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Lumber production at British Columbia's sawmills rose 2.8% between October 2011 and October 2012.** This increase was entirely due to higher output by mills in B.C.'s interior (+4.3%). Conversely, lumber production at coastal mills declined (-6.3%) for the third decline in as many months.

  Canada-wide, lumber production jumped 7.7% in October, primarily driven by a surge (+22.2%) in output by mills in Quebec.
  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Happy New Year &
All the best for 2013



***Infoline* Issue: 13-01**
January 4th, 2013

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline

January 4, 2012
Issue 13-01

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at **www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca** or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,638.8	0.9
Canada	35,002.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Oct 2012	3,241	1.8
Merchandise Exports - Oct 2012	2,727	2.1
Retail Sales - Oct 2012	5,097	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Nov 2012)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.1	1.2
Vancouver	0.2	1.4
Victoria	-0.2	1.1
Canada	0.8	1.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Dec 2012	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	0.6	
Labour Force - BC	2,474.3	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,313.3	0.0
Unemployed - BC	161.0	-3.9
		Nov 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.5	6.8
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.1	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 2/2013	Jan 4/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.29
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 2/2013	Jan 4/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9859	1.0135
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0150	0.9878
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Dec 2012	one year ago
BC	868.09	1.5
Canada	873.15	2.3

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Provincial Economic Accounts 2011

Provincial economic accounts data for 2011, including gross domestic product, are now available. . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Economy/EconomicAccounts.aspx

2012 DACSO Data Released

Data from the 2012 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey have been released and are available through the Student Outcomes Reporting System (SORS). See more:
http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/default/Home.aspx

Small Business Profile, 2011

The 2012 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on BC's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/BusinessIndustry/SmallBusiness.aspx

Open Data, 2011 Census, Language Data

The fourth and final data release from the 2011 Census. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Open Data, Census Area Profiles NEW – 2001 files added

Here's where you can get at the datasets for all areas, large and small. We'll be adding more as 2011 Census data are released, as well as additional historical tables – so keep coming back! See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- Labour Force Statistics
- Earnings and Employment Trends

To Release next week

- Exports

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca